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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/576,269 05/22/00 CUMMINGS M A00000278-04-

EXAMINER

QM12/0920

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED:

09/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/576,269	Applicant(s) Cummings et al.
	Examiner Clark F. Dexter	Art Unit 3724
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply <p>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>1</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status <p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.</p> <p>2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.</p>		
Disposition of Claims <p>4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-51</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.</p> <p>7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claims <u>1-51</u> are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>		
Application Papers <p>9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved.</p> <p>12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 <p>13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).</p> <p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). <p>*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>		
<p>14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).</p>		
Attachment(s) <p>15) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____</p> <p>16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>		

Art Unit: 3724

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims **1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45**, 3, 4, 35, 36 and 46-48, drawn to a shaving assembly with a specific lubrication applying configuration, classified in class 30, subclass 41.
 - II. Claims **1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45** and 5-7, drawn to a shaving assembly with a specific razor blade retaining configuration, classified in class 30, subclass 51.
 - III. Claims **1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45** and 8-12, drawn to a shaving assembly with a razor blade guard configuration, classified in class 30, subclass 77.
 - IV. Claims **1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45**, 8, 9 and 14, drawn to a shaving assembly with a specific razor blade orientation, classified in class 30, subclass 50.
 - V. Claims **1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45**, 8 and 13, drawn to a shaving assembly with a specific blade configuration, classified in class 30, subclass 346.5.
 - VI. Claims **1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45**, 8 and 15, drawn to a shaving assembly with a specific razor cartridge configuration, classified in class 30, subclass 58.
 - VII. Claims **1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45**, 16-24, 37-41 and 49-51, drawn to a shaving assembly with a specific dispenser actuation configuration, classified in class 30, subclass 535.

Art Unit: 3724

VIII. Claims 1, 2, 25-29, 32, 42, 43, 45, 30 and 31, drawn to a shaving assembly with a specific body material, classified in class 30, subclass 32.

2. Claims 1-31 have been restricted such that the patentability of the invention is presumed to lie in the details of the particular group (e.g. the lubrication applying configuration of Group I). It is noted that if claim 1 as originally filed is determined to be patentable, rejoinder of claims 1-31 will be considered. The same applies to claims 32 and 45 with respect to the claims dependent therefrom. It is further noted that claims 1, 32 and 45 are listed as part of groups I-VIII but are not considered to be part of any of these groups. Rather, claims 1, 32 and 45 recite subject matter that is common to these groups and has been shown as part of each group for clarity (i.e., so that it is clear which claims are part of which group). Further, because claims 1, 32 and 45 include subject matter which is common to these groups, they are not considered to be independent or distinct from any of groups I-VIII and thus will be examined with the elected group upon election of one of these groups.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Group I vs Groups II-VIII

4. Inventions of groups I and II are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the razor blade retaining configuration of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention

Art Unit: 3724

of group II does not require the specific details of the lubrication applying configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II.

5. Inventions of groups I and III are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the razor blade guard configuration of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the lubrication applying configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III.

6. Inventions of groups I and IV are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the razor blade orientation of group IV for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention of group IV does not require the specific details of the lubrication applying configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group IV.

7. Inventions of groups I and V are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group V for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention of group V does not require the specific details of the lubrication applying configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group V.

8. Inventions of groups I and VI are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the razor blade cartridge configuration of group VI for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention

Art Unit: 3724

of group VI does not require the specific details of the lubrication applying configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VI.

9. Inventions of groups I and VII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the dispenser actuation configuration of group VII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention of group VII does not require the specific details of the lubrication applying configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VII.

10. Inventions of groups I and VIII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group I does not require the specific details of the body material of group VIII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group I, and the invention of group VIII does not require the specific details of the lubrication applying configuration of group I for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VIII.

Group II vs Groups III-VIII

11. Inventions of groups II and III are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group II does not require the specific details of the razor blade guard configuration of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II, and the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the razor blade retaining configuration of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III.

Art Unit: 3724

12. Inventions of groups II and IV are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group II does not require the specific details of the razor blade orientation of group IV for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II, and the invention of group IV does not require the specific details of the razor blade retaining configuration of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group IV.

13. Inventions of groups II and V are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group II does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group V for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II, and the invention of group V does not require the specific details of the razor blade retaining configuration of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group V.

14. Inventions of groups II and VI are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group II does not require the specific details of the razor blade cartridge configuration of group VI for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II, and the invention of group VI does not require the specific details of the razor blade retaining configuration of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VI.

15. Inventions of groups II and VII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group II does not require the specific details of the dispenser actuation configuration of group VII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II, and the invention of group VII does not require the specific details of the razor blade retaining configuration of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VII.

Art Unit: 3724

16. Inventions of groups II and VIII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group II does not require the specific details of the body material of group VIII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group II, and the invention of group VIII does not require the specific details of the razor blade retaining configuration of group II for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VIII.

Group III vs Groups IV-VIII

17. Inventions of groups III and IV are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the razor blade orientation of group IV for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III, and the invention of group IV does not require the specific details of the razor blade guard configuration of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group IV.

18. Inventions of groups III and V are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group V for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III, and the invention of group V does not require the specific details of the razor blade guard configuration of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group V.

19. Inventions of groups III and VI are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the razor blade cartridge configuration of group VI for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III,

Art Unit: 3724

and the invention of group VI does not require the specific details of the razor blade guard configuration of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VI.

20. Inventions of groups III and VII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the dispenser actuation configuration of group VII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III, and the invention of group VII does not require the specific details of the razor blade guard configuration of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VII.

21. Inventions of groups III and VIII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group III does not require the specific details of the body material of group VIII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group III, and the invention of group VIII does not require the specific details of the razor blade guard configuration of group III for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VIII.

Group IV vs Groups V-VIII

22. Inventions of groups IV and V are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group IV does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group V for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group IV, and the invention of group V does not require the specific details of the razor blade orientation of group IV for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group V.

Art Unit: 3724

23. Inventions of groups IV and VI are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group IV does not require the specific details of the razor blade cartridge configuration of group VI for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group IV, and the invention of group VI does not require the specific details of the razor blade orientation of group IV for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VI.

24. Inventions of groups IV and VII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group IV does not require the specific details of the dispenser actuation configuration of group VII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group IV, and the invention of group VII does not require the specific details of the specific details of the razor blade orientation of group IV for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VII.

25. Inventions of groups IV and VIII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group IV does not require the specific details of the body material of group VIII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group IV, and the invention of group VIII does not require the specific details of the razor blade orientation of group IV for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VIII.

Group V vs Groups VI-VIII

26. Inventions of groups V and VI are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group V does not require the specific details of the razor blade cartridge

Art Unit: 3724

configuration of group VI for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group V, and the invention of group VI does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group V for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VI.

27. Inventions of groups V and VII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group V does not require the specific details of the dispenser actuation configuration of group VII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group V, and the invention of group VII does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group V for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VII.

28. Inventions of groups V and VIII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group V does not require the specific details of the body material of group VIII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group V, and the invention of group VIII does not require the specific details of the blade configuration of group V for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VIII.

Group VI vs Groups VII-VIII

29. Inventions of groups VI and VII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group VI does not require the specific details of the dispenser actuation configuration of group VII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VI, and the invention of group VII does not require the specific details of the razor blade cartridge configuration of group VI for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VII.

Art Unit: 3724

30. Inventions of groups VI and VIII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group VI does not require the specific details of the body material of group VIII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VI, and the invention of group VIII does not require the specific details of the razor blade cartridge configuration of group VI for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VIII.

Group VII vs Group VIII

31. Inventions of groups VII and VIII are separate inventions. They are distinct because the invention of group VII does not require the specific details of the body material of group VIII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VII, and the invention of group VIII does not require the specific details of the dispenser actuation configuration of group VII for patentability as evidenced by the omission thereof from group VIII.

32. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

33. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 3724

34. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

35. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark Dexter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1404.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Rinaldi Rada, can be reached at (703)308-2187.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148. The fax numbers for this group are: formal papers - (703)305-3579; informal/draft papers - (703)305-9835.



Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

cfd
September 18, 2001

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)

6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTO-L-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.